CHAPTER II.

MANAGEMENT OF STATE FORESTS.

I.—REGULATION OF MANAGEMENT.

(*a*).—Working-Plans and their Control.

35. The following table shows the work done by Party II :—

Year.	Jungle cut and cleared.	Linear Miles surveyed.	Posts fixed.	Test trees felled.	Number of Compartments formed.	Test area enumerated.	Area for which full *data* for the preparation of plans have been collected.	Total Cost.	Cost per Acre.
	Miles.					Acres.	Acres.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.
1894-95 ...	36·591	31·708	794	29	27	1,188	15,812	20,539	1 4 9·4
1893-94 ...	68·976	71·792	828	126	36	1,550	21,106	22,979	1 1 5
Difference ...	—32·385	—40·084	—34	—97	—9	—362	—5,294	—2,440	+0 3 4·4

36. Party II, under Mr. Bell, continued the organization of the teak-bearing areas drained by the Kálánadi, Káneri and Nágzhári streams, the produce of which is transported by water to Karwar. The tract examined comprises an area of 15,812 acres, and is extremely unhealthy and mountainous, and, consequently, difficult to work in. The labour was increased by the fact that there were no maps of the forest, which had to be prepared by the Working-Plans' party.

37. Sickness was prevalent and none of the party escaped. The Extra-Assistant fell seriously ill, and had to take 2 months' leave during the working-season, and Mr. Bell, himself, was constantly down with fever.

38. Under these circumstances, it is scarcely to be wondered at that the out-turn of work shows a falling-off. Fortunately, the work to be done in the so-called Gund-group which is in the most unhealthy part of Kanara, was completed on the 15th April, and the organization of the upper slopes of the Bedti-river in the Central Division was commenced, and will be continued this season.

39. The Governments of India and Bombay have both animadverted on the cost of the organization of the teak-forests of Kanara, and appear to ascribe the comparatively-high rate of expenditure to over-elaboration. It seems, therefore, incumbent on me to explain briefly how matters stand. I am most anxious to expedite matters and to make the organization as cheap and simple as possible, but I do not think that it can be further simplified, and Government will, I trust, make allowance for the great difficulties with which all work in Kanara is beset.

40. The situation is as follows. The subject of the organization consists of a forest of trees of various species and ages from the seedling to the overmature tree three or four centuries old. The country is mountainous and very sparsely populated. The age-classes are not separated in space, trees of all ages being mixed up together.

41. The forest has, in the first place, to be divided into manageable units, or compartments, of about 600 acres, by means of narrow lanes cut through it, where no natural features are available for the purpose. This breaking-up of the area into compartments is necessary for the organization, itself, and for the carrying-out of the so-called working-plan; the rides, thus formed, are also useful for patrol-work, fire-protection, and frequently for the exploitation of produce.

42. About 7 per cent. of the trees are enumerated in diameter-classes, by means of long narrow test-plots; and the number of trees of each diameter-class of a species is deduced for the whole area from the figures thus obtained. From this result, the number of trees annually exploitable is determined with due regard to the number of trees in each diameter-class and the increment of the older classes.

43. There is surely nothing elaborate in this mode of procedure, and the heavy average cost up to date may safely be ascribed partly to the peculiar conditions already referred to; and partly to initial difficulties in the carrying-out of any undertaking of the kind, which disappear as soon as the staff has got into good working order. I feel confident that the cost this year and in years to come will be less than that of previous years.

44. The rest of the work—the location of the cuttings for the first period, the number of trees to be cut annually during the period, the regulation of grazing and other privileges, of the annual works of regeneration and improvement, &c.—is done during the rainy season from *data* collected during the field-season, and no further expense is incurred by the party in the field.

45. The following table shows the details of work done by Party No. I during the two last seasons :—

Year.	Area estimated.	Test trees felled.	Number of Compartments formed.	Area for which *data* for the preparation of Working-Plans were collected.	Number of Maps and Tracings.	Total cost incurred.	Cost per Acre.
						Rs.	Rs. a. p.
1894-95 ...	89,640·12	3,352	20	89,640·12	57	23,156	0 4 1·6
1893-94 ...	1,35,406·19	840	28	1,35,406·19	47	22,963	0 2 8
Difference ...	—45,766·07	+2,512	—8	—45,766·07	+10	+193	+0 2 6·4

46. This party was employed throughout the year in Kolábá, and completed the organization of that district.

47. The Divisional Officer, referring to the comparative slowness of the work last season, ascribes it to the greater difficulty of the country and of obtaining daily labour, which had to be procured by the month, and lastly, to sickness of the members of the permanent establishment who all suffered from fever.

48. The character of the forest examined was similar to that organised during the previous season, and for which a plan of working was submitted for the sanction of Government with my No. 5309, dated 13th December, 1894. The work last season was carried out on the same lines, and the proposed plan of working the forests has been submitted by the Divisional Officer and will shortly be in the hands of Government.

49. The cost of the preparation of plans for Kolábá has amounted to Rs. 46,119, and that for Kanara to Rs. 1,56,707 up to date.

50. The total area for which complete *data* were collected, comprised 413,856 acres, and the average cost per acre came to 7 annas and 10 pies. Complete working-plans have been submitted for 364,257 acres of this area.

II.—WORKING OF THE YEAR.

(*a*).—Communications and Buildings.

51. Form No. 51, appended, shows details of works executed during the year under report.

52. "Roads and bridges" cost Rs. 1,845, and buildings, &c., Rs. 4,754.

53. In the Northern Division of Kanara, a sum of Rs. 304 was expended on making new cart-tracks, and Rs. 130 on repairing old tracks. 4 watch-houses and 3 wells were newly built for Rs. 2,150, and Rs. 294 were expended in repairing existing buildings.

54. In the Central Division of Kanara, Rs. 631 were laid out on road-repairs, and Rs. 745 on repairs, &c., to Forest-buildings.

55. In the Southern Division of Kanara, repairs to buildings cost Rs. 482, and, in Belgaum Rs. 132. The Halshi-Nágargáli forest-road was repaired at a cost of Rs. 543.

56. The Dharwar and Kolábá depôt-and guard-houses were repaired for Rs. 180.

(*b*).—Protection of Forests from Injury.

(*1*).—*General Protection and Breaches of Forest Law.*

57. The following table shows the number of prosecutions and breaches of forest rules during the years 1893-94 and 1894-95 :—

Division.	Cases of the year 1893-94.							Cases of the year 1894-95.							Percentage of failures.	
	Pending in Court on 1st July 1893.	Taken into Court during the year.	Total.	Disposed of by Magistrates during the year. Convictions.	Acquittals.	Total.	Pending in Court on 30th June 1894.	Pending in Court on 1st July 1894.	Taken into Court during the year.	Total.	Disposed of by Magistrates during the year. Convictions.	Acquittals.	Total.	Pending in Court on 30th June 1895.	1893-94.	1894-95.
Northern Division, Kanara ...	3	102	105	32	73	105	...	...	55	55	19	17	36	19	69	47·9
Central Division, Kanara... ...	...	25	25	15	6	21	4	4	12	16	10	6	16	...	24	37
Southern Division, Kanara ...	...	36	36	31	3	34	2	2	12	14	8	5	13	1	8	38·5
Belgaum Division	6	26	32	26	5	31	1	1	31	32	21	8	29	3	15	27
Dharwar do.	2	17	19	12	5	17	2	2	14	16	8	8	16	...	26	50
Bijápur do.	...	10	10	10	...	10	...	...	22	22	21	1	22	...	...	4·5
Kolábá do.	4	287	291	187	33	220	71	71	207	278	238	25	263	15	11	9·5
Ratnagiri do.	1	62	63	43	18	61	2	2	11	13	10	2	12	1	28	16·6
Total ...	16	565	581	356	143	499	82	82	364	446	335	72	407	39	24·	17·7